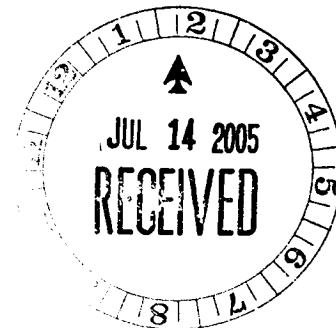


SIDNEY STRICKLAND AND ASSOCIATES, PLLC

214325

3050 K ST. N.W., SUITE 101
WASHINGTON, DC 20007-5108
TELEPHONE: 202-295-4024
FAX: (202)-672-5399

SIDNEY L. STRICKLAND, JR.
SIDNEY.STRICKLAND@STRICKLANDPLLC.COM



July 14, 2005

Honorable Vernon A. Williams
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Re: Surface Transportation Board ("STB") Docket No. AB-6 (Sub-No. 401X); The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company ("BNSF") Abandonment in Polk County, IA

Dear Secretary Williams:

By order served July 16, 2004, the Board issued an order stating: "Pursuant to the provisions of 49 CFR 1152.29(e)(2), BNSF shall file a notice of consummation with the Board to signify that it has exercised the authority granted and fully abandoned the line. If consummation has not been effected by BNSF's filing of a notice of consummation by July 16, 2005, and there are no legal or regulatory barriers to consummation, the authority to abandon will automatically expire."

Unanticipated issues related to the historical conditions have hampered BNSF's ability to consummate this transaction. Accordingly, BNSF requests an extension of the consummation deadline until December 31, 2005.

Please acknowledge receipt of this letter by date stamping the enclosed copy of this letter and returning it to me in the enclosed self-addressed stamped envelope.

Ten (10) additional copies of this letter are enclosed for the Board's use and distribution.

If you have any questions, please contact me at my direct number: (202) 295-4672.

Sincerely,

Sidney L. Strickland, Jr.
SLS/js

cc: James Gallegos
Jerry Johnson
Richard Batie
Dalen Wintermute

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings

JUL 14 2005

Part of
Public Record